

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4312

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, RO, TZ
SUBJECT: NEW ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR TO TANZANIA: DR. ALEXANDRU
CRISTIAN CALOMFIRESCU

1. OFFICIAL RCP DAILY SCINTEIA REPORTED JUNE 20 THAT DR. CALOMFIRESCU HAD PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS AS ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR TO TANZANIA, REPLACING ION DRINCEANU. THE NEW AMBASSADOR IS A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL WHOSE SPECIALITY IS THE "ORGANIZATION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE", I.E. HEALTH CARE SERVICES. HE COMES TO DAR ES SALAAM FROM THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WHERE, SINCE 1969, HE HAD BEEN DEPUTY AND THEN FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER. IN THAT CAPACITY, HE HAD ALSO BEEN FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS ONE OF VICE CHAIRMEN OF ROMANIAN RED CROSS. DR. CALOMFIRESCU IS BELIEVED TO BE ABOUT FIFTY YEARS OF AGE, IS MARRIED, AND SPEAKS FRENCH BUT NOT ENGLISH. WE HAVE NO RECORD OF HIS HAVING VISITED THE U.S., AT LEAST NOT DURING THE LAST SEVEN YEARS.

2. AMBASSADOR CALOMFIRESCU SHOULD BE A CONGENIAL COLLEAGUE. TWO OF OUR ROMANIAN EMPLOYEES DESCRIBED HIM AS INTELLECTUAL, SOPHISTICATED, OPEN-MINDED, GOOD-HEARTED AND PLEASANT TO DEAL WITH. BOTH OF THEM (ONE OF WHOSE HUSBAND IS A SURGEON) DESCRIBED HIM AS WELL-LIKED BY HIS PROFESSIONAL
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COLLEAGUES. THE SCIENCE ATTACHE, WHO HAS FOUND WORKING WITH ROMANIAN OFFICIALDOM A GENERALLY FRUSTRATING EXPERIENCE, DESCRIBED HIM AS A DIFFERENT KIND OF PERSON FROM THOSE NORMALLY ENCOUNTERED HERE AND A PLEASURE TO WORK WITH. IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH ON BEHALF OF THE U.S. NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH, HE FOUND CALOMFIRESCU DECISIVE, PERCEPTIVE AND POSITIVE IN HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD

THE UNITED STATES.

3. WHEN THE GOR SELECTS A TECHNICIAN OF DR. CALOMFIRESCU'S QUALIFICATIONS FOR AN AMBASSADORIAL POST ((ANOTHER RECENT EXAMPLE IS THE FORMER DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE TO BRUSSELS/ LUXEMBOURG), IT PRESUMABLY DOES SO WITH A SPECIFIC MISSION IN MIND. TANZANIA IS REPRESENTED IN BUCHAREST BY ITS AMBASSADOR RESIDENT IN BONN AND, IN SO FAR AS WE KNOW, IS NOT PRESENTLY AMONG THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES RECEIVING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM ROMANIA OR PROVIDING A SIGNIFICANT COMPONENT OF THE 13,000 MOSTLY AFRICAN AND ARAB STUDENTS STUDYING AT ROMANIAN UNIVERSITIES IN JUST SUCH ADVANCED TECHNICAL FIELDS AS MEDICINE. WERE THE GOR'S MOTIVES PRINCIPALLY RELATED TO TANZANIA PER SE OR TO POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVING THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, IT WOULD SEEM MORE APPROPRIATE TO HAVE SELECTED A PARTY OR DIPLOMATIC PROFESSIONAL WITH A DIFFERENT BACKGROUND, AND WITH ENGLISH RATHER THAN FRENCH.

4. WE THEREFORE SPECULATE THAT DR. CALOMFIRESCU'S APPOINTMENT IS INDICATIVE OF A GOR DECISION TO PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN ADDITION TO THE FINANCIAL AND POSSIBLY ALSO MILITARY ASSISTANCE IT ALREADY IS PROVIDING TO THE ZIMBABWE GUERRILLAS. THE GOR MAKES NO BONES ABOUT ITS SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN "LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND THE CONTROLLED PRESS HAS ALMOST DAILY FEATURES UPHOLDING THEIR STRUGGLES. WHAT FORM MEDICAL

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ASSISTANCE MIGHT TAKE AND WHETHER IT WOULD BE TO ZANU, WHICH HAS A RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN BUCHAREST, OR TO ZAPU, PERHAPS AS A RESULT OF SOME UNDERSTANDING REACHED DURING CEAUSESCU'S RECENT VISIT TO CHINA, OR TO BOTH, WE HAVE NO IDEA. MR. MIRCEA BEC, PRESENTLY CHIEF OF SOUTHERN AFRICA DIVISION IN NEW MFA AFRICA DIRECTORATE BUT FORMERLY HIMSELF AT ROMANIAN EMBASSY IN DAR, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED GOR "MATERIAL AND POLITICAL" ASSISTANCE TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, WAS UNWILLING TO ADMIT OF ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN CALOMFIRESCU'S PROFESSION AND POSSIBLE GOR ASSISTANCE IN HEALTH SERVICES FIELD EVEN TO TANZANIA.

5. WE WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IN ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY DAR MIGHT BE ABLE TO DEVELOP ON THE NATURE OF DR. CALOMFIRESCU'S MISSION.

AGGREY

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Message Attributes

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